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ALONZO THOMAS DILL

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December 21, 1982

Lieut. Col. Joseph W. Whitehorn, Executive Officer  
Defense Department - Military History  
20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear Sir:

I am engaged in writing a history of the little town of West Point, Va., about 38 miles east of Richmond and 24 miles from Williamsburg. I am now doing research for the role of the town in World War II.

At that period the Army had a small installation here, established in some old buildings which had served a government shipyard in World War I. I believe a Colonel or Major Tumbridge was in charge of refurbishing the old buildings.

Much secrecy surrounded the unit, and no one here knows for certain what its purpose was. Speculation has been that it was a part of the OSS or the Manhattan Project or even the abandoned plan to construct airfields of ice frozen with fiber, as suggested to Churchill and Mountbatten by the inventor Geoffrey Pyke.

If, as I hope, the information is now non-classified after forty-some years, could you give me some data on what the purpose of the installation was and what, if anything, it achieved? If Tumbridge was the commander, can you tell me his name and rank and present address if he is living?

Sincerely yours,

A.T. Dill

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